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Washington LABOR MARKET

Washington State
Employment Security

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In cooperation with the
Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

April 1990

Highlights

Behold The Ides of March

It certainly wasn't Brutus but something sure cut Washington's unemployment rate down to size in March. The level of statewide joblessness dropped nearly a full percentage point over the month from 6.5 percent to 5.6 percent of the workforce – double what would normally be expected. This represented the lowest level of unemployment for March since 1968. The rate contrasted sharply with 6.6 percent a year ago and basically converged on the national average at 5.4 percent. On the surface, a combination of factors appeared to be working. First and foremost the economy continued strong. When overlaid atop normal seasonal upturn, the combination caused the state's employment base to spike sharply higher.

But secondly, the labor force failed to grow. All of the monthly gain in employment in March was met by pull-

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ing workers off the state's jobless rolls. Over the past year, the civilian workforce in Washington has expanded by 143,000. Estimates of net in-migration tend to support these kinds of increase. Certainly, one month does not a trend make. However, if the labor force has indeed slowed for whatever reason, this alone could act to constrain the potential employment expansion of the state over the balance of this year.

Currently, the Washington economy, together with much of the Pacific Northwest, is flying in the face of national trends. For the most part, employment growth at present continues little changed from that of the recent past. In contrast, a decisive slowing has taken place nationally for the better part of a year, particularly in manufacturing. Admittedly, portions of the regional economy are looked upon this year to provide less thrust. Key among these are forest products and aircraft manufacturing. Available forecasts for 1990, however, show only a diminution in overall growth and an economy continuing to track higher than that of the nation for the fifth consecutive year.

Resident Civilian Labor Force

Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Mar 1990 *Preliminary*	Feb 1990 *Revised*	Mar 1989
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,545,600	2,538,200	2,402,800
Employment	2,401,800	2,372,900	2,243,500
Unemployment	143,800	165,300	159,300
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	6.5%	6.6%
National Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.8%	5.2%

Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Washington's employment setting in March reflected a combination of seasonal and cyclical strengths. Nonfarm employment expanded over the month by 23,400 – only slightly less than the 27,400 posted in March 1989. Typically, these spring months mark the beginning of increased activity throughout much of the state's resource-based industries. As usual, the swing was led by forest products and food processing. In addition, con-

struction mounted to a new high for March. And build-up for the 1990 Census added several hundred temporary workers to government payrolls.

The only significant offsets in March came in aircraft manufacturing, communications services, and general merchandise retailing. Each reflected losses of several hundred workers over the month. However, none of the shortfall was the result of underlying weakness in market demand. On the contrary, both resident and export markets for Washington-based goods and services continued strong. Population growth is proceeding at a pace more than twice the national average. And orders on hand for 1,700 aircraft in all likelihood will keep Boeing production lines humming well into the mid-1990s. Whatever changes took place in March were either seasonal or short-term productivity adjustments.

Manufacturing Stands Pat

On balance, Washington's manufacturing industries stood basically unchanged. Both lumber and wood products (+ 500) and food processing (+ 700) mounted seasonally as warmer weather set in. Higher construction boosted overall activity in stone, clay, and glass (+ 400). Shipbuilding payrolls heightened further by 200 to 10,300 workers, a 1,500 gain over the past 12 months. Machinery and instruments manufacturing held firm.

On the downside, aircraft manufacturing pulled back by another 500 in March. Basically, efficiencies on the giant 747-400 have prompted Boeing to reduce overall worker levels this year for the first time since 1983. The announced target for the year is 5,000. Given the huge order backlog presently in hand and the prospect for near term go-ahead on the new 777 aircraft, any adjustment is expected to be relatively modest and relatively short-lived.

Accounting For The Differences

Part of the reason Washington's major industrial base is holding its own while that of the nation languishes relates to differences in principal markets. For much of Washington's basic export industries (lumber and wood products specifically logging; instruments and electronic

equipment; agriculture and food processing; and commercial aircraft) a significant portion of final demand is exported. Washington ranks first in the nation in terms of proportion of gross state product sold in overseas markets. Per capita income generated through foreign trade is more than double the national average. At a time when divergence exists between foreign and domestic demand, sales oftentimes become a matter of relative position.

Secondly, owing to physical distances from major market centers, many of Washington's principal manufacturers outside of the resource-based industries have become successful by carving out special market niches in which their product dominates. Certainly, market fluctuations are not absent for these industries. But, barring a major business downturn, some degree of stability is present among these firms which is noticeably lacking among lesser players.

And, finally, the regional economies of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska continue to lead the nation in terms of population and employment growth. This area constitutes the principal market for such industries as fabricated metals, heavy machinery manufacturing, and selected business services. In a real sense, growth is feeding on growth. The attendant expansion taking place in the services economy, as a result, is generating additional demand for manufactured input.

Counting People Adds To The Count

Nonmanufacturing employment expanded sharply by 22,000 workers in March. This constituted the largest increase for the month in 10 years save 1989. Construction mounted by 6,100 to a level of 109,400 – the highest for the month on record. Warmer weather also figured importantly in the employment gains posted in trade (+ 5,200) and services (+ 6,700). Within these groupings, some of the most significant expansion occurred in eating and drinking establishments (+ 2,200) and business services (+ 1,700).

Buildup for the 1990 Census over the month was another add on. Nearly all of the 1,000 worker increase in federal government payrolls represented temporary

census hires. On-site enumeration of the homeless and other specific target groups constituted an important facet of this year's decennial census count and, accordingly, added to overall staffing requirements. Further hiring in both April and May is expected to bring staffing to a peak of 7,000 by the end of June.

At that time, hiring for the Goodwill Games should begin to kick in. Preliminary estimates by the consultant to the Goodwill Committee peg the employment impact at roughly 5,000 for the two-week event. Dollar impact is figured at $300 million. Most of the nonmanufacturing sectors will be affected at various sites throughout the state on potential total ticket sales of 1.1 million.

SPOTTED OWLS CAST A HUGE SHADOW

Atop all this, the specter of timber cuts looms large. Forest products manufacturing in Washington represents a $10 billion industry with an average 60,000 workers in 1989. It ranks second only to aerospace in terms of contribution to gross state product, and for many communities in the Olympic Peninsula and southwest Washington it constitutes the only game in town. Cycles associated with the ebb and flow of its principal markets have long pulled the state in tandem. And massive restructuring to regain competitive position in the early-1980s had a measurable domino effect.

Total timber harvest in Washington State last year was estimated between 7.1 and 7.4 billion board feet. Roughly 2.8 billion of that amount was exported. Based upon average employment in the lumber and wood products sector of 42,450 last year (41,100 wage and salary workers and 1,350 sole proprietors), this level of harvest translates into 1.6 logging jobs and 6.6 lumber mill processing jobs per million board feet of output. By applying a job multiplier of 2.95 from the *Washington Input-Output Study* the indirect impact measures roughly 16 additional jobs per million board feet sprinkled throughout the economy.

Timber Shortage Becomes the Issue

As demand for timber has heightened, particularly for log exports, cutting in the forests of the Pacific Northwest has intensified. In an effort to challenge the U.S. Forest Service's management policies, environmentalists successfully sued in court last year to stop timber sales through use of federal law that requires the spotted owl be protected as an indicator species of the forest ecosystem. A one-year compromise ensued. Meanwhile, a blue-ribbon group of biologists comprising the Interagency Scientific Commission has determined that the spotted owl is indeed imperiled and has proposed vast reduction of timber harvest on old-growth USFS lands in order to protect habitat.

While the majority of old-growth timber is on federal and state lands, private tracts of old-growth also exist. As a result, any ruling could likely affect all areas. The proposal on the table calls for a reduction of harvest on Washington USFS lands of roughly 60 percent – from 1,287 million board feet of timber cut in 1989 to 542 million. A decline of this magnitude could result in the direct loss of 6,100 jobs (1,190 loggers and 4,910 mill workers). Another 12,000 would logically be affected indirectly throughout the economy. Cumulative direct and indirect loss of wages and benefits could total close to half a billion dollars.

A Litany Of Things To Come

The U.S. Fish Wildlife Service has until late June to decide whether or not to list the spotted owl as a "threatened or endangered" species. If enacted, the agency would then have a year to come up with a plan or simply adopt the ISC recommendation. In either scenario, the impact upon the state's forest products industry is destined to be significant.

Cutting back log exports is deemed one solution to retaining the available timber resource for domestic mills. A ban on log exports from federal land has been in existence for 20 years. Now the state is following suit by proposing a 75 percent reduction in log exports from state-owned lands. But even an outright ban on log exports will not make up the amount of timber resource

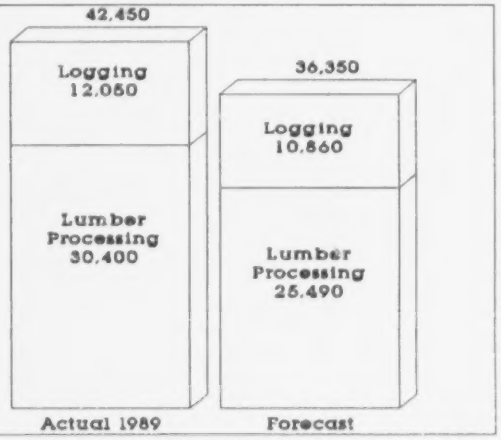
likely to be declared off limits through administrative action over the next several months.

Forecast of Lumber & Wood Products Employment

State of Washington

Assuming a 58 percent decline in U.S. Forest Service timber harvest as presently proposed by the Interagency Scientific Commission.

Source: Employment Security Department



Year-Over-Year Tops 100,000

Washington's economy expanded by 109,600 jobs or 5.5 percent over the past 12 months. That rate of increase exceeded the national average by better than 2 to 1 and ranked the state third highest among the 50 states. Only Nevada and Idaho tracked higher. Understandably, the largest absolute job gains have come in the biggest industry groupings of trade (+ 26,800) and services (+ 29,900). Both resident and export demand played an important part in the year-to-year gain in business services (+ 7,100). Likewise, greater tourism and business travel figure importantly in higher payrolls at area hotels (+ 2,500) and restaurants and bars (+ 4,700).

At a time when manufacturing nationally is down nearly 250,000 workers over the year, Washington's basic goods-producing sector continues to mount. Total statewide manufacturing employment registered 13,800 or 4 percent above the prior year in March. Roughly a third of that job growth has come in aircraft manufacturing. The remaining two-thirds is distributed widely through food processing (+ 1,200), metals and machinery (+ 2,000), forest products (+ 1,600), and other transportation equipment (+ 1,500). Additional waste cleanup and environmental restoration at Hanford has generated 800 more jobs in chemicals.

AREA TRENDS

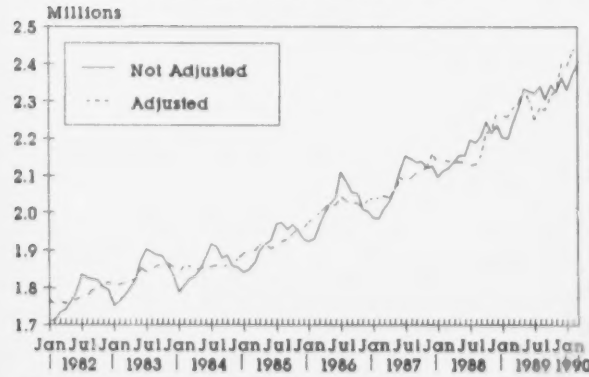
Seasonal Swing Sets The Pace

Much of the improvement in March took place within the state's resource-based economies. Areas outside the major metropolitan centers accounted for the bulk of the month-to-month unemployment change. Overall jobless rates in agriculturally-dependent eastern Washington dropped over the month from 10.3 percent to 9.0 percent of the area workforce. Those of the timber-dependent counties of western Washington, likewise, fell from 12.0 percent in February to 9.4 percent in March. Both areas registered close to a percentage point below prior year levels. Further seasonal progress can reasonably be expected over the next several months.

Urban Job Growth = Expanding Economies

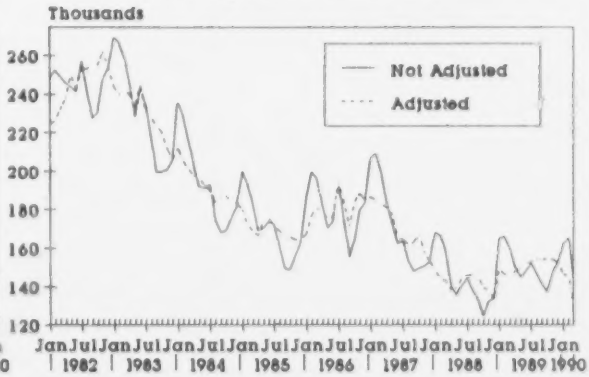
Washington's urban areas averaged a 5.0 percent unemployment rate in March, down from 5.7 percent in February and 6.0 percent a year earlier. Specifically, the Seattle PMSA led the state with 3.9 percent jobless in March – the lowest rate for the month since the Boeing boom of the late-1960s. Tacoma and Spokane tracked at 5.3 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively. For the most part, these economies might reasonably be considered to be within the range of full employment. Additional relatively low readings were recorded for Bremerton at 4.6 percent, Olympia at 5.4 percent, and Vancouver at 5.5 percent.

State Total Resident Employment
January 1982-March 1990



Source: Employment Security Department

State Total Resident Unemployment
January 1982-March 1990



Source: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

First Farm Forecast

In the first production forecast for 1990, the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service has pegged this year's winter wheat crop at 141.8 million bushels. If realized, this would measure more than double last year's winter-killed crop of 68.9 million bushels and the highest production level for this key crop since 1984. Yield is estimated at 63 bushels per acre – the second highest on record. Demand last year was boosted by a combination of strong domestic and export markets which should carry through into 1990.

Fort Lewis In Transition

The 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis is targeted for elimination by 1992. The first unit – the 23rd Infantry Regiment – departed in mid-April. Approximately 2,900 troops are scheduled to be removed this year, another 3,100 next year, and 1,900 in 1992. Current proposals call for the transfer of the 7th Infantry Division from Fort Ord, California by 1992-93. Net impact would be a gain of 3,000.

High-Tech On A Roll

As a sign of the times, Washington's electronics industry is expanding rapidly both in terms of employment and capacity to meet burgeoning demand. Microsoft – the nation's leading personal computer software manufacturer – plans to hire 1,000 new workers this year mostly in the Redmond area. That addition would bring the firm's employment to nearly 6,000 worldwide and 3,600 at Redmond by year-end. Plans are also underway to add 320,000 square feet to the existing 800,000 square feet of plant capacity. Profits of the company were up 83 percent over the year in the first quarter. Sales for the past 12 months exceeded $1 billion for the first time in history.

More action is coming from southwest Washington. SEH America Inc. – the Japanese-owned manufacturer of silicon wafers – will add 200 workers to the current 970 employment base at Vancouver by year-end. The addition is necessary to move production from 5 to 7 days a week. Strong markets could also cause SEH to increase its 250,000 square feet of manufacturing space in the near future.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

First Quarter Picks Up The Pace

The nation's economy appears to have picked up speed in the first quarter. Real Gross National Product – the inflation-adjusted measure of all goods and services produced – grew in the first three months at a 2.1 percent annual rate, up significantly from the fourth quarter's low 1.1 percent reading. Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the nation's economic activity, rebounded sharply from $3.6 billion to $16.4 billion thanks largely to auto dealer incentives. Unseasonably warm weather through much of January and February was also a contributing factor. Real final demand swelled from a pace of 1.1 percent to 4.0 percent.

Inflation Continues To Chip Away

Inflation, meanwhile, remains stubbornly entrenched in the economy. The GNP fixed-weight price index soared in the first quarter at a 6.5 percent annual rate – the highest since the fourth quarter of 1981. Most analysts expect the Federal Reserve to hold firm on its present course in an effort to contain inflation within its present bounds. Without the extraordinary influences of weather and a beginning-year federal pay hike, prices still rose 5.2 percent over the quarter. Encouragingly, wholesale prices fell in March for the first time in seven months propelled by lower food and energy costs. Prices at the consumer level should scale back significantly in the current quarter.

Industry Finally Rallies

Manufacturing at long last may be staging a rebound nationally. Orders for durable goods – items intended to last at least three years – leaped 6.7 percent in March representing the biggest boost in over a year. This followed a smaller but significant 2.3 percent increase in February. Taken together, however, the two months did not make up for the 10.5 percent plunge in January. But the March data suggest that the long industrial slide may have finally bottomed out. Much of the movement over the month centered in the volatile transportation equipment sector, both aircraft and automobiles. Nonetheless, even excluding these items March orders showed a 2 percent hike with February holding flat.

Gauge For The Future Points Positive

Looking to the future, the government's key barometer of economic strength is signaling continued mild growth. The Commerce Department's index of leading indicators climbed 0.9 percent in March – the biggest single month advance since June 1988. Economists generally credit the report with allaying fears of recession but cautioned against reading signs of bullish strength. More of the same was the best reading. Most of the March increase came in two areas: plant equipment orders and raw material prices. Holding back the index were declines in building permits, factory backlogs, and the nation's money supply.

Consumer Price Index

(All items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
U.S. City Average	Mar 90 128.7	Feb 90 128.0	Mar 89 122.3	Feb 90 0.5%	Mar 89 5.2%
Seattle†	Jul-Dec 1989 119.6	Jul-Dec 1988 113.8		Jul-Dec 1988 5.1%	

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

(In Thousands) (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Industry	Mar 1990 (Prel)	Feb 1990 (Rev)	Mar 1989 (Rev)	Feb 1989 (Rev)	Numeric Change Feb 1990 to Mar 1990	Numeric Change Mar 1989 to Mar 1990
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	2,096.7	2,073.3	1,987.1	1,959.7	23.4	109.6
MANUFACTURING	363.0	361.4	349.2	345.1	1.6	13.8
Durable Goods	260.8	260.2	250.5	247.2	0.6	10.3
Lumber & Wood Products	40.4	39.9	39.6	39.3	0.5	0.8
Furniture & Fixtures	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	0.1	0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass	7.7	7.3	7.0	6.6	0.4	0.7
Primary Metals	12.8	12.7	13.1	13.0	0.1	-0.3
Aluminum	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	0.1	0.0
Fabricated Metals	11.8	11.9	11.2	11.0	-0.1	0.6
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	19.3	19.4	18.6	18.3	-0.1	0.7
Electronic & Other Elec. Equipment	11.9	11.9	11.4	11.4	0.0	0.5
Transportation Equipment	131.6	132.0	125.0	123.2	-0.4	6.6
Aircraft and Parts	115.0	115.5	109.9	108.3	-0.5	5.1
Instruments & Related	15.0	15.0	14.8	14.8	0.0	0.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.7	0.1	0.3
Nondurable Goods	102.2	101.2	98.7	97.9	1.0	3.5
Food & Kindred Products	33.3	32.6	32.1	31.8	0.7	1.2
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	10.3	10.0	10.3	10.4	0.3	0.0
Textiles, Apparel, & Leather	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4	0.1	0.1
Paper & Allied Products	18.4	18.3	17.6	17.5	0.1	0.8
Printing & Publishing	22.1	22.0	21.5	21.3	0.1	0.6
Chemicals & Allied Products	12.8	12.8	12.0	12.0	0.0	0.8
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	0.0	0.0
MINING & QUARRYING	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.2	0.0	0.3
CONSTRUCTION	109.4	103.3	96.4	90.6	6.1	13.0
TRANSP., COMM., & UTILITIES	109.7	109.7	103.6	102.2	0.0	6.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	507.9	502.7	481.1	476.5	5.2	26.8
Wholesale Trade	128.1	126.8	119.2	117.9	1.3	8.9
Retail Trade	379.8	375.9	361.9	358.6	3.9	17.9
General Merchandise	38.1	38.6	36.1	36.4	-0.5	2.0
Food Stores	64.9	64.2	60.5	59.7	0.7	4.4
Eating & Drinking	135.0	132.8	130.3	128.8	2.2	4.7
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	115.6	114.8	109.5	108.9	0.8	6.1
Finance	53.0	52.7	50.3	50.3	0.3	2.7
SERVICES	491.8	485.1	461.9	453.7	6.7	29.9
Hotels & Lodging	24.9	24.1	22.4	21.8	0.8	2.5
Business Services	80.2	78.5	73.1	71.0	1.7	7.1
Health Services	146.8	145.7	138.9	137.9	1.1	7.9
Hospitals	48.5	48.1	45.7	45.5	0.4	2.8
GOVERNMENT	395.6	392.6	382.0	379.5	3.0	13.6
Federal	72.2	71.2	71.3	71.1	1.0	0.9
State	116.5	115.8	112.5	112.1	0.7	4.0
Local	206.9	205.6	198.2	196.3	1.3	8.7
State Education	62.6	62.1	61.1	60.6	0.5	1.5
Local Education	111.5	111.0	108.8	107.6	0.5	2.7
LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

[1]Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 5/2/90
Benchmark: 1989

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	March 1990 Preliminary†				February 1990 Revised†				March 1989 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate
Washington State	2,545,600	2,401,800	143,800	5.6	2,538,200	2,372,900	165,300	6.5	2,402,800	2,243,500	159,300	6.6
Bellingham MSA	68,400	64,400	4,000	5.8	67,400	62,900	4,500	6.7	63,400	58,700	4,700	7.4
Bremerton MSA	82,100	78,300	3,800	4.6	81,400	77,400	4,000	4.9	78,000	73,600	4,400	5.6
Olympia MSA	85,700	81,100	4,600	5.4	85,700	80,000	5,700	6.7	79,100	73,900	5,200	6.6
Seattle PMSA	1,156,700	1,112,000	44,700	3.9	1,152,400	1,103,900	48,500	4.2	1,083,800	1,032,600	51,200	4.7
King County‡	914,600	880,500	34,100	3.7	910,100	874,100	36,000	4.0	855,000	815,900	39,100	4.6
Snohomish County‡	242,000	231,500	10,500	4.3	242,300	229,800	12,500	5.2	228,900	216,800	12,100	5.3
Spokane MSA	175,400	164,500	10,900	6.2	175,200	162,700	12,500	7.1	169,800	158,400	11,400	6.7
Tacoma PMSA	264,100	250,200	13,900	5.3	262,500	247,200	15,300	5.8	251,300	234,300	17,000	6.8
Tri-Cities MSA	71,200	65,600	5,600	7.9	70,800	64,000	6,800	9.6	67,900	61,600	6,300	9.3
Benton County‡	54,200	50,700	3,500	6.5	53,700	49,400	4,300	8.0	52,400	48,200	4,200	8.0
Franklin County‡	17,000	14,900	2,100	12.4	17,100	14,600	2,500	14.6	15,500	13,400	2,100	13.5
Vancouver PMSA	129,700	122,600	7,100	5.5	129,100	120,700	8,400	6.5	119,200	112,000	7,200	6.0
Yakima MSA	97,700	84,800	12,900	13.2	98,000	83,200	14,800	15.1	93,500	80,300	13,200	14.1
Adams	6,490	5,770	720	11.1	6,510	5,540	970	14.9	6,350	5,610	740	11.7
Asotin	10,290	9,800	490	4.8	10,210	9,680	530	5.2	8,950	8,430	520	5.8
Clallam	23,940	22,010	1,930	8.1	24,090	21,350	2,740	11.4	23,360	21,160	2,200	9.4
Columbia	1,880	1,580	300	16.0	1,810	1,490	320	17.7	1,800	1,400	400	22.2
Cowlitz	39,140	36,210	2,930	7.5	39,700	35,740	3,960	10.0	37,400	34,280	3,120	8.3
Ferry	3,480	2,970	510	14.7	3,400	2,960	440	12.9	3,090	2,630	460	14.9
Garfield	1,040	990	50	4.8	1,090	1,010	80	7.3	1,050	980	70	6.7
Grant	25,610	22,900	2,710	10.6	24,970	21,560	3,410	13.7	24,900	22,310	2,590	10.4
Grays Harbor	28,760	25,910	2,850	9.9	29,800	25,930	3,870	13.0	26,710	23,900	2,810	10.5
Island	22,360	21,330	1,030	4.6	22,170	21,090	1,080	4.9	20,330	19,410	920	4.5
Jefferson	8,780	8,290	490	5.6	8,670	8,020	650	7.5	8,190	7,680	510	6.2
Kittitas	12,710	11,470	1,240	9.8	12,720	11,420	1,300	10.2	12,580	11,160	1,420	11.3
Klickitat	8,410	6,970	1,440	17.1	8,480	6,920	1,560	18.4	7,950	6,420	1,530	19.2
Lewis	27,450	25,110	2,340	8.5	28,530	24,700	3,830	13.4	25,060	22,580	2,480	9.9
Lincoln	4,250	4,010	240	5.6	4,340	4,070	270	6.2	4,220	3,970	250	5.9
Mason	14,200	13,170	1,030	7.3	14,190	12,880	1,310	9.2	13,590	12,500	1,090	8.0
Okanogan	16,490	14,100	2,390	14.5	16,260	13,750	2,510	15.4	16,820	14,190	2,630	15.6
Pacific	7,960	7,240	720	9.0	7,900	6,860	1,040	13.2	7,090	6,470	620	8.7
Pend Oreille	3,400	2,840	560	16.5	3,440	2,820	620	18.0	5,200	4,700	500	9.6
San Juan	5,630	5,420	210	3.7	5,350	5,080	270	5.0	5,190	4,900	290	5.6
Skagit	39,750	36,650	3,100	7.8	39,050	35,110	3,940	10.1	36,860	33,530	3,330	9.0
Skamania	2,460	1,930	530	21.5	2,530	1,820	710	28.1	2,450	1,800	650	26.5
Stevens	12,700	11,110	1,590	12.5	12,510	11,080	1,430	11.4	12,370	10,840	1,530	12.4
Wahkiakum	1,360	1,240	120	8.8	1,470	1,210	260	17.7	1,260	1,180	80	6.3
Walla Walla	25,000	22,780	2,220	8.9	25,190	22,700	2,490	9.9	24,120	21,650	2,470	10.2
Wenatchee Labor Area	40,470	36,360	4,110	10.2	40,880	36,180	4,700	11.5	40,290	35,390	4,900	12.2
Chelan County‡	27,290	24,350	2,940	10.8	27,410	24,230	3,180	11.6	27,090	23,460	3,630	13.4
Douglas County‡	13,180	12,010	1,170	8.9	13,470	11,950	1,520	11.3	13,200	11,930	1,270	9.6
Whitman	20,620	20,180	440	2.1	20,580	20,050	530	2.6	19,610	19,070	540	2.8

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology. Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

MARCH 1990 STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE = 5.6%

Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary March Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Mar 90	Feb 90	Mar 89	Mar 90	Feb 90	Mar 89	Mar 90	Feb 90	Mar 89
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES[1]	214,468	$512.08	$506.79	$506.35	40.1	39.5	41.0	$12.77	$12.83	$12.35
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	33,373	$441.07	$420.58	$435.84	39.7	38.2	39.3	$11.11	$11.01	$11.09
Primary Metal Industries	10,337	$561.56	$554.67	$539.57	42.9	42.7	43.2	$13.09	$12.99	$12.49
Fabricated Metal Products	9,443	$489.94	$480.00	$496.39	39.8	40.0	41.4	$12.31	$12.00	$11.99
Machinery	19,973	$405.12	$410.11	$381.81	38.4	38.4	39.2	$10.55	$10.68	$9.74
Food and Kindred Products	23,358	$370.26	$360.55	$353.69	37.4	36.2	36.5	$9.90	$9.96	$9.69
Chemical and Allied Products	4,566	$642.18	$660.73	$633.66	42.0	42.3	41.2	$15.29	$15.62	$15.38
Transportation Equipment	61,716	$649.65	$646.34	$649.25	42.6	42.3	44.9	$15.25	$15.28	$14.46
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	80,688	$619.86	$585.04	$621.15	36.7	34.7	37.6	$16.89	$16.86	$16.52
Wholesale and Retail Trade (Includes eating and drinking establishments)	447,847	$274.52	$268.49	$260.75	30.3	29.7	29.8	$9.06	$9.04	$8.75

[1]Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

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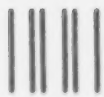

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